

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00113 171302Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 NEA-10
/081 W

-----030181 171306Z /44

O R 171215Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5728
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0113

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PBOR,(HSON ET
SUBJ: NO SOMALI THINKING REGARDING TERMS OF OGADEN SETTLEMENT

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 0105; B) STATE 011011

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THREE MINISTERS AND OTHER MFA
OFFICIALS EMBASSY COULD DISCERN NO INDICA-
TION THAT THE GSDR LEADERSHIP HAS MADE ANY SERIOUS EFFORT TO
DECIDE WHAT ITS MINIMUM TERMS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE OGADEN
MIGHT BE. CURRENT SOMALI APPREHENSION OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
ENCOURAGE THE SOMALIS TO CONSIDER THIS PROBLEM, AND ADOPT A
CONCILIATORY POLICY.

1. DURING A DINNER WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER ABDIRAHMAN JAMA
BARRE HOSTED FOR WESTERN CHIEFS OF MISSION LAST NIGHT, JAN. 16,
THE CHARGE PROBED FOR SOME INDICATION THAT SOMALI MINISTERS OR
OFFICIALS WERE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE FORM A POSSIBLE
OGADEN SETTLEMENT MIGHT TAKE. RELATING QUESTIONS TO THE
JANUARY 6 CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS BY PRESIDENT SIAD AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00113 171302Z

JAN. 16 STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, THE
CHARGE ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHAT WOULD THE MINIMUM
ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT BE FOR PEACE IN THE OGADEN. JAMA
BARRE SAID THAT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE OGADENIS WAS
THE KEY TO THE SITUATION. WHEN THE CHARGE COUNTERED THAT
IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT NEITHER SIDE COULD HOPE TO
ACHIEVE ITS FULL OBJECTIVES, THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT

HE COULD NOT SAY WHERE THE PRECISE LINES MIGHT BE DRAWN ON A MAP. THAT IS SOMETHING, THE MINISTER CONTINUED, WHICH THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF) WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE. THE MINISTER WAS CLEARLY MORE INTERESTED IN IMPRESSING UPON THE CHARGE THE URGENCY OF PRESIDENT SIAD'S APPEAL FOR WESTERN INTERVENTION THAN HE WAS IN DISCOURSING ON THE TERMS OF A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT. HE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT TIME WAS GROWING SHORT, AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF THE CHARGE HAD MENTIONED THE TIME FACTOR IN HIS REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

2. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORMER SOMALI DIPLOMAT AND VICE COMMANDER OF THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY, MOHAMED IBRAHIM, WAS NO MORE FORTHCOMING ON THIS SUBJECT DURING A SIMILAR DISCUSSION. THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER CLUNG TENACIOUSLY TO HIS ASSERTION THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WERE COLONIZERS, AND WOULD HAVE TO ABANDON THE OGADEN WHERE THEY HAD NO RIGHTS EXCEPT THAT OF CONQUEST. OTHER MFA OFFICIALS AT THE DIRECTOR LEVEL AT THE GATHERING PROFESSED EITHER TO BE UNINFORMED OR SAID THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE FORM OF A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT.

3. DISCOURSING ON THE SAME SUBJECT ON JAN. 17, MINISTER OF INFORMATION ABDIKASSIM SALAD HASSAN, SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY GSDR CONSIDERATION OF A SETTLEMENT. THAT, HE COMMENTED, WOULD HAVE TO BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 00113 171302Z

AGREED ON IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ETHIOPIANS IF THE LATTER WERE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE. THE MINISTER ASSERTED THE SOVIETS WERE THE OBSTACLE TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, NOT THE ETHIOPIANS WHO WOULD HAVE REALIZED EVENTUALLY THE DESIRABILITY OF AN AFRICAN SETTLEMENT. ABDIKASSIM SAID HE PRIVATELY COULD ENVISION A SOLUTION THAT WOULD GUARANTEE THE ETHIOPIANS ACCESS TO THE PORT OF BERBERRA, FOR EXAMPLE, AS WELL AS FREE MOVEMENT THROUGH DJIBOUTI. HE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, FORESEE A RETURN TO THE STATUS QUOE ANTE IN THE OGADEN, OR EVEN NOMINAL ETHIOPIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER AN AUTONOMOUS OR SELF-GOVERNING OHADEN. HE SPECULATED THAT THE WSLF SHOULD DEFINE AND PROCLAIM ITS SETTLEMENT TERMS. HE SEEMED TO APPRECIATE THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A CONSIDERED POSITION BEFORE NEOTIATIONS OPENED. HE ALSO SAID HE REALIZED THAT IN A NEGOTIATION NONE OF THE PARTIES COULD ACHIEVE ALL OF ITS OBJECTIVES. IMPLICIT IN HIS REMARKS WAS THE ASSERTION THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE WSLF AS WELL AS THE GSDR.

4. COMMENT: IF THERE IS ANY THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO THE FORM OF AN OGADEN SETTLEMENT IN THE GSDR, THEN

THERE IS NO INCLINATION TO SHARE IT. MORE LIKELY IS
THE PROSPECT THAT HAVING AGREED TO NEGOTIATE, THE
SOMALIS HAVE SIMPLY NOT DECIDED WHAT THEIR MINIMUM CON-
DITIONS SHOULD BE. THEIR CURRENT ANXIETIES OFDUR AN
OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE THE GSDR
LEADERSHIP TO THINK
SERIOUSLY ABOUT A SETTLEMENT A C TAKE A CONCILIATORY
POSITION. THE GSDR WOULD PREFER OF COURSE THAT THE
WEST STEP IN AND OBVIATE THE NEED FOR HARD CHOICES.
THIS IS THE TIME TO HELP THE GSDR LADERSHIP FACE ITS
DIFFICULT DECISIONS.
VOUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI00113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-0909
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780156/aaaabuow.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ddcecf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOGADISCIO 105, 78 STATE 11011
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3763312
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NO SOMALI THINKING REGARDING TERMS OF OGADEN SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, KE, DJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ddcecf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014